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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Trade in Goods and
Services, and Commodities
Expert Meeting on the Impact of the Reform Process
in Agriculture on LDCs and Net Food - Importing
Developing Countries, and Ways to Address their Concerns
in Multilateral Trade Negotiations
Geneva, 24-26 July 2000
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. The impact of the reform process in agriculture on LDCs and net food - Importing developing countries - Assessment of country-specific concerns

4. Ways to address their concerns in multilateral trade negotiations

5. Adoption of the outcome of the Meeting

GE.00- 51184

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1: Election of officers

1. It is recommended that the Expert Meeting elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda for the Expert Meeting is reproduced in section I above. The provisional schedule of meetings for the three days is attached to this document.

3. At the consultations of the President of the Trade and Development Board with the Bureau, coordinators and interested delegations (31 March 2000), member States decided to convene an Expert Meeting on the Impact of the Reform Process in Agriculture on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Net Food - Importing Developing Countries, and Ways to Address Their Concerns in Multilateral Trade Negotiations. That decision was made in accordance with the UNCTAD X Plan of Action (TD/386) paragraph 133: "UNCTAD should analyse the impact on all developing countries of the reform process, as foreseen in Article 20 of The WTO Agreement on Agriculture, with attention being paid to the concerns of LDCs and net food - importing developing countries".

4. In line with the mandate, the Meeting will have two substantive segments.

Item 3: The impact of the reform process in agriculture on LDCs and net food - importing developing countries - Assessment of country-specific concerns

5. The discussions under the first substantive item will be devoted to a diagnosis of the impacts of the reform process in agriculture on LDCs and net food - importing developing countries (NFIDCs) and an assessment of their concerns, taking into account the diverse circumstances faced by those developing countries. Presentations by country experts on this item are expected to provide country-specific experiences and views in relation to the reform process in the agricultural sector. A proposed guideline for inputs by experts is attached to his document.

Item 4: Ways to address their concerns in multilateral trade negotiations

6. Against the background of the deliberations under item 3, experts will focus on actions that could be taken to address the problems of the LDCs and NFIDCs in the context of the continuation of the reform process pursuant to Article 20 of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. It is also hoped that the deliberations under this item will lead to an identification of the types of support from relevant international organizations that developing countries, in particular LDCs and NFIDCs, will require in their efforts to effectively participate and negotiate in the ongoing WTO negotiations on agriculture.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.1/EM.11/2	Impacts of the reform process in agriculture on LDCs and net food-importing developing countries, and ways to address their concerns in multilateral trade negotiations

Item 5: Adoption of the outcome of the Meeting

7. The Expert Meeting will adopt recommendations which will be assessed by member States before being submitted to the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities in February 2001. The final report will be compiled under the authority of the Chairperson after the conclusion of the Meeting.

SCHEDULE OF THE MEETING

Day 1 (24 July 2000)	Day 2 (25 July 2000)	Day 3 (26 July 2000)
(10 a.m.- 1 p.m.) **Plenary** Opening statement Item 1: Election of officers Item 2: Adoption of the agenda **Informals** Item 3: The impact of the reform process in agriculture on LDCs and net food - importing developing countries: Assessment of country-specific concerns	*(10 a.m.- 1 p.m.)* **Informals (continued)** Item 3: (continued) Item 4: Ways to address their concerns in the multilateral trade negotiations	*(10 a.m.- 1 p.m.)* **Informals (continued)** Item 4: (continued)
(3 p.m.- 6 p.m.) **Informals (continued)** Item 3: (continued)	*(3 p.m.- 6 p.m.)* **Informals (continued)** Item 4: (continued)	*(3 p.m.- 6 p.m.)* **Plenary** (closing) Adoption of outcome

Inputs from experts

Experts nominated by member States are requested to submit brief papers to the UNCTAD secretariat in advance of the meeting. Papers will be made available to other participants at the Meeting in the form and language in which they are received. An expert paper may discuss how the reform programme and the international trading environment in the agricultural sector have interacted with efforts to meet his/her country's agricultural policy objectives, showing concrete examples. Inputs from experts from all UNCTAD member States (LDCs, NFIDCs, other developing countries, countries in transition, and developed countries) will be pertinent to enhancing the deliberations at the Meeting.

Experts may wish to formulate their inputs according to the questionnaire attached below, although it is not compulsory to follow it. Experts are encouraged to provide concrete example of experiences of the country.

Impacts on the domestic market

1. Effects of country's own market access liberalization (please provide product-specific examples):
   a) How did tariff reductions affect import flows?
   b) How did reductions in non-tariff barriers affect import flows?
   c) How did the role of foreign companies (through local subsidiaries or agents) in your country's domestic trade and distribution change as a result of market liberalization?
   d) Was there any effect upon preferential market access arrangement(s) provided by your country to developing countries?
2. Effects of other countries' market access liberalization (please provide product-specific examples):
   a) Does domestic production compete with subsidized exports from other countries? What are the price differentials between domestic products and subsidized exports?
   b) Has there been any impact of reductions in export subsidies by developed countries on the domestic market in the last five years?
3. How much does local consumption depend on food imports of: (i) cereals; (ii) edible oils; (iii) meat; (iv) dairy products; (v) processed food products? Has the dependency changed in the last 10 years?
4. Effects of the world price fluctuations between 1995-2000 (please provide product-specific examples):
   a) How have price fluctuations in recent years (high in 1995/96, low in 1997/98, etc.) affected your agricultural imports in values and quantities?
   b) Have there been any short-term financing difficulties? If so, what type of support have you received as a relief measure to meet the difficulties?
   c) How have the price fluctuations in recent years affected the level of domestic consumption?

Impacts on the export market

1. Effects of other countries' market access liberalization (please provide product-specific examples):
   a) Have new export opportunities arisen from tariff reductions and minimum market access opportunities (TRQs) by other countries?
   b) Have new export opportunities arisen from reductions in non-tariff barriers in importing countries?
   c) Are there major tariff/non-tariff barriers facing your exports?
   d) Has there been any effect upon the preferential market access arrangement(s) received from importing countries?
2. How have reductions/non-reductions in subsidized exports of other countries affected your export markets?
3. How have the price fluctuations in recent years affected your agricultural export earnings and export quantities? Are such price shocks fully reflected in producer prices, and have there been any serious negative effects?
4. How have the recent developments in the international market structure (e.g. the growing importance of major transnational corporations) affected agricultural exports?

(*Continued on the next page*)

5. Administration of export subsidies/export credits:
   a) Do export prices under subsidies vary according to the destination?
   b) What are the major destinations of subsidized exports/export credits?
   c) Are there any regulations regarding the selection of export subsidies/credit recipients?
   d) Are there any mechanisms to assess needs for lower-priced imports in destination markets?
   e) Are subsidies/credits linked to development aid programmes?

Domestic agricultural production and trade

1. Are there significant differences between domestic costs of production and import prices for foodstuffs?
2. What have been the main policy measures in supporting domestic producers/domestic consumers/exporters? What factors influence the Government's ability to provide such support (e.g. budgetary problems, the WTO commitments on domestic support, etc.)?
3. How have the price fluctuations in recent years affected your agricultural production/consumption?
4. Are there specific areas where the domestic production and trade of your country would require technical assistance?

Experts are requested to kindly submit the papers by 10 July 2000 to:

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